

SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

TITLE: David: A House Divided Against Itself

TEXT: 2 SAMUEL 2-4

- How do Christians live together and in the larger world?
- How should they live as people offering their entire lives in sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1–2)?
- How do we live with believers and non-believers in a Christ-like way though we may differ on many opinions and ideas in matters of personal perception?

Romans 12:17-19

...¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Carefully consider what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord."... New International Version

David: A House Divided

Chapter 2:1-7 – David anointed king.

- He asks of God – do I go to the towns of Judah.
- This has been and will always be a key them of David's
- *"The LORD bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him. ⁶May the LORD now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this. ⁷Now then, be strong and brave,*

Chapter 2:8-30 – War between the Tribes

- The armies and leaders divide.
- A meeting that ends in battle.
- Let the young men fight.
 - Knives and war
- Abner is chased – does not want to kill the brother of Joab, whom he respects.
 - Asahel keeps chasing him so Abner is forced to kill him
- *²⁶Abner called out to Joab, "Must the sword devour forever? Don't you realize that this will end in bitterness? How long before you order your men to stop pursuing their fellow Israelites?"*

Chapter 3:1-5 – The house of David. Wives and Sons

Chapter 3: 6-21 Abner changes sides

- Abner son of Ner had come to the king and that the king had sent him away and that he had gone in peace.
- Ish-bosheth makes a false accusation against Abner, saying he took his father's concubines.
- Abner sees the evil of his king.
 - He recognized evil.
 - He changed his mind.
 - Changes his allegiance to David.
 - David wants his wife Michal back.

Chapter 3:22-39 David mourns of his enemy

²⁴ So Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Look, Abner came to you. Why did you let him go? Now he is gone!" ²⁵ You know Abner son of Ner; he came to deceive you and observe your movements and find out everything you are doing."

- Kills him in private
- David curses Joab and his family for the action
- The king weeps

2 Samuel 3:32-33

³² They buried Abner in Hebron, and the king wept aloud at Abner's tomb. All the people wept also. ³³ The king sang this lament for Abner:

- Verse 34 -35 - *"Should Abner have died as the lawless die? ³⁴ Your hands were not bound, your feet were not fettered. You fell as one falls before the wicked." ³⁵ Then they all came and urged David to eat something while it was still day; but David took an oath, saying, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I taste bread or anything else before the sun sets!"*
- The people wept.
- Watching how people responded to the death of John McCain and recently Rush Limbaugh. Indeed, anyone who was on the other side of your aisle...was heartbreaking.
- Seeing people comment with ugliness when death is happening is shameful.
 - Texas – New Orleans

Chapter 4 - Killing the king's enemy

v. 4 – Jonathan's son – crippled – last heir – David spares and he has a seat at his table – the kept covenant.
1-7 – Two leaders murder Ish-Bosheth in his sleep and take his head to David.

2 Sam. 4:9-11 – David's response

"As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, ¹⁰ when someone told me, 'Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and put him to death in Ziklag. That was the reward I gave him for his news! ¹¹ How much more—when wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed—should I not now demand his blood from your hand and rid the earth of you!"

- Two people take up the offence for the king and take the battle into their own hands, killing the king's 'enemy.'

- This is NOT good NEWS.
- I will not reward you with a like or a heart for your bad news.
- They were innocent – you are evil.

The kingdom belongs to David

David blesses people for showing kindness to his enemy

Abner begs the enemy to let up!

Abner changes his opinion and loyalties due to choosing godly over ungodly behavior

David sets a table for the grandson and nephew of his enemies

David weeps over the death of Abner, a former enemy

David responds harshly to someone who attacks and destroys his enemy

David is man after God's heart

There is the lesson!!!

How you handle those you perceive as enemies

I do a lot of counseling and always there are two sides and two perspectives. NEVER is one side the entire truth.

Taking Sides on National Scales

Israel – Saul rejected, David anointed

Ish-Bosheth – Saul's son and heir by succession

David – Anointed by God through Samuel

Pick a side!

Greece – Alexander the Great dies

Four generals divide and battle over it for centuries - Cassander, Ptolemy, Antigonus, and Seleucus

Pick a side!

Rome –

The Senate takes power and with their "senate nobility" lifting up Pompey as their leader

Gaius Julius Caesar is denied the opportunity to come home. Thus by crossing the Rubicon, brings about a civil war and really the end of the Republic.

Pick a side!

Islam after the death of the prophet Muhammad in A.D. 632.

- While most of Muhammad's followers thought that the other elite members of the Islamic community should choose his successor, Sunni
- a smaller group believed only someone from Muhammad's family—namely his cousin and son-in-law, Ali—should succeed him. This group became known as the followers of Ali; in Arabic the *Shiat Ali*, or simply Shia.

Pick a side!

America Begins

1607 – Jamestown

1619 – The first slaves

1776 – Declaration of independence

- Who fought the Brits?
 - Did any Blacks lose their lives for the cause of this country?
 - Crispus Attucks, a multiracial man who had escaped slavery, is known as the first American colonist killed in the American Revolution. On the evening of March 5, 1770,

1858 (1861 –Civil War)

On June 16, 1858 more than 1,000 delegates met in the Springfield, Illinois, statehouse for the Republican State Convention. At 5:00 p.m. they chose Abraham Lincoln as their candidate for the U.S. Senate, running against Democrat Stephen A. Douglas. At 8:00 p.m. Lincoln delivered this address to his Republican colleagues in the Hall of Representatives. The title reflects part of the speech's introduction, "*A house divided against itself cannot stand.*"

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention.

If we could first know *where* we are, and *whither* we are tending, we could then better judge *what* to do, and *how* to do it.

We are now far into the *fifth* year, since a policy was initiated, with the *avowed* object, and *confident* promise, of putting an end to slavery agitation.

Under the operation of that policy, that agitation has not only, *not ceased*, but has *constantly augmented*.

In *my* opinion, it *will* not cease, until a *crisis* shall have been reached, and passed.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half *slave* and half *free*.

I do not expect the Union to be *dissolved* -- I do not expect the house to *fall* -- but I *do* expect it will cease to be divided.

It will become *all* one thing or *all* the other.

Civil Rights – 1965 – 3/5th - Are we united yet? Is freedom for all yet?

- Malcolm X or Martin Luther King JR.
- Redlining zones – realtors not allowed to sell house in certain areas

You Pick!

Taking Sides on a Personal Scale

Today we have so many divisions among the American people that homes are divided and friendships are forever broken!!!

- Mocking the death of John McCain
- Mocking the death of Rush Limbaugh
- Calling others – snowflakes, Nazis, bigots, racist, pedophiles
- Blocking family, friends over their political votes regardless of diverse opinions on policy matters
- Hypocrisy over supporting your side but condemning the other side.

Mark 3:25, Jesus states, "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

So...How do Christians live together and in the larger world?

How should they live as people offering their entire lives in sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1–2)?

That's the question Paul has been answering in Romans 12. Now Paul follows the command of the previous verse, which was to always act honorably.

As believers, we should live peaceably with all people.

- This would include our siblings in Christ, as well as unbelievers.
- Another way to read this command might be, "Never let yourself be the reason for an un-peaceful relationship with another person."

Romans 12:17-19

- 18If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone.

As Believers, we are not called to total pacifism or complete apathy

- Paul gives two clear conditions:
 - "If possible"
 - and "so far as it depends on you."
- This command recognizes that conflict is sometimes unavoidable.
 - **Some people are just not interested in making peace with us.**
 - There is such a thing as an appropriate time and place to disagree, to dispute, or even to fight.
 - Even though today's mindset seems to think that disagreeing is cause for name calling and verbal brutality
 - Not every action that makes others happy is something good, or something God would want us to do.

What does it require to live this way? When we Have Done Wrong.

Be willing to admit when we are wrong.

Be willing to apologize.

Be willing to make things right.

Be willing to forgive.

This is where the idea of "so far as it depends on you" comes into play.

- Our own ego, pride, desires, and prejudices should never get in the way of living peaceably with others.
- First and foremost, that means we ought not do "wrong" things to or towards other people.

What does it require to live this way? When there are differences.

Not all conflict is related to wrongdoing, however.

When no absolute answer, be willing to concede the difference in love and grace.

Sometimes, it's simply a question of two sides who disagree about an issue with no absolute answer.

- In those cases, maintaining the peace may require us to be willing to yield, to be moved, on an issue we care about.

When the Bible is clear, we must not concede. Yet show love and grace.

The Bible is clear, however, that on matters of bedrock conviction, we must take our stand with grace, mercy, and integrity.

Hebrews 10:23

²³ *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*

- When making "peace" is possible only by compromising the truth, or the commands of God (Acts 5:28–29), then peace is simply not possible, and the choice no longer depends on us.
 - Do we obey God or man?
- That stance might result in our own suffering or persecution.
- Paul has shown that it always matters more that we represent Christ well than to come away with an outcome we find favorable.

Do you want to Fight?! Are You angry?!

Know the Enemy – Principalities and Powers / Not the Enemy – not flesh and blood.

Attack and stand in war against the Enemy.

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

This Spirit of Offence and Disdain

But regarding people? Here is what Jesus said.....

Love, pray and weep for your enemies

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

A House Divided Against Itself

- Do your best not to fight – Abner
- Taking up offence and doing harm to another is not the heart of God
- Weep when enemy is hurting – David

This is the man after God's own heart.

He did not want the war

He ran for his life while hunted like a dog yet would not kill Saul, mourned at the death of Abner and Ish-bosheth

- Love, Pray weep
- do your best to be at peace